

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**October 25, 2007**

**Commissioners Clark, Cramer and Wefald**

**\*For Immediate Release\*\***

**Phone 701-328-2400**

**Commissioners are encouraged by cellular expansion in LaMoure**

Public Service commissioners Tony Clark, Kevin Cramer and Susan Wefald are encouraged that two major cellular companies have chosen LaMoure as a site for new cellular towers.

Alltel has activated a tower in LaMoure and Verizon Wireless has received permits and is currently constructing a tower there, according to local officials.

LaMoure is one community the commission visited in June 2005 as part of its "Zap the Gap" initiative. Zap the Gap was started as a way to encourage companies to invest in cellular communications in areas where people show a need.

"It's encouraging to see cellular companies improving their infrastructure in communities where citizens have taken the initiative to ask for better service," Clark said.

More than 100 people attended the 2005 meeting in LaMoure that was organized with the help of volunteers from the community. In addition to the meeting, citizens also filled out cellular coverage surveys, which can be found on the commission's website, [www.psc.state.nd.us](http://www.psc.state.nd.us).

All of the information gathered was presented to the cell companies as a way to show that there is a need for improved coverage in LaMoure.

"The commission cannot force companies to build new towers, but we want to do everything we can to prove to them that there is a strong need for better coverage, especially in small cities and rural areas," Commissioner Cramer said.

Since the Zap the Gap program started in 2004, the commission has visited nine communities and has received more than 1,000 cellular surveys.

"Cellular coverage is not only an added convenience," Wefald said. "It provides citizens with another tool to promote their communities and it increases access to emergency services."

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